TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1992 -- Despite a 5.4 percent decline in coal traffic -- the railroad industry's largest source of business -- carloadings on the nation's railroads increased 0.6 percent from the comparable 1991 week during the week ended April 4, 1992, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

Traffic was up 3.6 percent in the East, but down 2.5 percent in the West, the AAR said. Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1992 was 1.9 percent above the comparable 1991 total.

"The growth is an indication that the recession has bottomed out, confirming the opinions of economists who believe that we are on the road to economic recovery," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president for economics and finance at the AAR.

However, he cautioned, "that recovery may be gradual, if rail traffic is an indication of the pace of recovery. The good news for railroads is that the industry's performance should improve dramatically when coal and grain traffic join the upswing.

"This week's loadings show continued strength in the automotive and housing industries," Dr. Levine said, pointing out that loadings for motor vehicles and parts rose 38.5 percent and loadings of lumber and wood products showed a 9.1 percent gain.

Rail intermodal traffic jumped 16.4 percent from the corresponding 1991 week during the week ended April 4, the AAR said. This brought total volume for the first 14 weeks of 1992 to 1,710,485 trailers and containers, up 6.2 percent from 1991.

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The AAR also estimated ton-mileage for the week ended April 4 at 19.9 billion, up 2.6 percent from the corresponding 1991 week. For the first 14 weeks of 1992, the AAR estimated that cumulative ton-mileage was 4.6 percent above the comparable 1991 total.

The railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloadings and 97 percent of rail intermodal loadings.

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WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	29,301	28,846	1.6 %	29,486	-0.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,867	1,230	51.8	1,900	-1.7
Metallic Ores	15,898	18,069	-12.0	13,738	15.7
Coal	111,957	118,359	-5.4	124,014	-9.7
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	13,024	13,960	-6.7	11,838	10.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,016	8,915	1.1	8,505	6.0
Grain Mill Products	10,377	9,753	6.4	10,330	0.5
Food & Kindred Products	9,534	8,441	12.9	9,021	5.7
Primary Forest Products	9,470	8,869	6.8	9,360	1.2
Lumber & Wood Products	5,718	5,243	9.1	6,285	-9.0
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,798	9,988	8.1	10,635	1.5
Chemicals	30,662	30,510	0.5	30,051	2.0
Petroleum Products	4,830	4,405	9.6	5,018	-3.7
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,941	9,509	-6.0	9,351	-4.4
Coke	5,468	4,967	10.1	5,563	-1.7
Metals & Products	10,284	9,746	5.5	10,894	-5.6
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	18,131	13,093	38.5	19,284	-6.0
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,457	7,549	12.0	8,255	2.4
All Other Carloads	6,613	7,119	-7.1	6,390	3.5
Total	**320,346**	**318,571**	**0.6 %**	**329,918**	**-2.9 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 14 WEEKS ENDING APRIL 4, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**320,346**	**318,571**	**0.6 %**	**4,459,459**	**4,377,527**	**1.9 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	65,521	56,376	16.2	837,595	835,872	0.2
Containers	62,672	53,716	16.7	872,890	774,404	12.7
Total	**128,193**	**110,092**	**16.4**	**1,710,485**	**1,610,276**	**6.2**
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	**19.9**	**19.4**	**2.6 %**	**286.3**	**273.6**	**4.6 %**

NOTE: Carloadings are estimated for: Week 14, 1992 - GTW, RFP & TM.

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